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Weissman and Karikó



MEDICINE NOBEL GOES TO 2 WHOSE DISCOVERIES LED TO COVID VACCINES

Two scientists won the Nobel Prize in medicine for their discoveries that enabled the creation of mRNA vaccines against coronavirus

VACCINE DEVELOPMENT FOR PANDEMIC HAILED

Hungarian-born American Katalin Karikó and American Drew Weissman were cited for contributing 'to the unprecedented rate of vaccine development during one of the greatest threats to human health in modern times,' according to the panel that awarded the prize in Stockholm. The mRNA vaccines can be used to develop other shots in the future | P9

KARIKÓ IS THE 13TH WOMAN IN MEDICINE WIN

Injecting lab-grown mRNA into the body triggered a reaction that destroyed it. Karikó and Weissman figured out a modification to the RNA that made it stealthy enough to slip past the immune defences

Karikó, 68, is the 13th woman to win the prize in medicine. She was a senior VP at BioNTech, which partnered Pfizer to make COVID-19 vaccine

\$1 million

IS THE CASH AWARD FROM A BEQUEST LEFT BY ALFRED NOBEL

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VAYANAD • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOTHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESHWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • THIRUPATI • THIRUCHY • TRIVENDR • SAMBALPUR • HUBLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADIPALLA • KUDLUR • NAGAPATTINAM • THIRUVARUR • KALABURGI



Today's issue comes with an 8-page pullout to mark the 70th birthday of Mata Amritanandamayi

24 DEATHS IN 24 HOURS AT MAHA HOSPITAL

Twelve newborns among fatalities at govt hospital in Nanded due to shortage of medicines and medical staff. Expert committee formed to submit report



President Droupadi Murmu pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary, at Rajghat in New Delhi, Monday | P1

Bihar BC head count at 63%

STATE CASTE SURVEY OUTCOME MADE PUBLIC; YADAV BIGGEST CASTE @ 14.3%

TOTAL POPULATION 13.07 CRORE; OBCs CONSTITUTE 27.13% OF IT, EBC 36%

Tomorrow, at 3.30 pm, a presentation on the findings of the survey will be made before representatives of all 9 parties that gave consent for the survey — Nitish Kumar, Bihar Chief Minister



RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

BIHAR'S backward castes on Monday got an authentic number for the first time — 63% — with the state's caste 'survey' report being made public. In the process, Bihar became the first state to share the findings of its game-changing caste census.

It is expected to set off caste assertion of a kind that has the potential to overshadow the Hindutva and nationalism cards the BJP is preparing to use during the next general elections in 2024. While the population of the Extremely Backward Classes (EBC) is 36%, that of the Other Backward Classes (OBC) is 27.13%, the census revealed. The state has a total population of 13.07 crore.

A visibly elated Chief Minister Nitish Kumar side-stepped queries about whether the survey would prove to be Mandal 2.0, triggering demands for revised quotas for different castes in proportion to their population. "It would not be proper for me to go into such details right now. Let me share the findings with all parties tomorrow. After that, our focus will be on making policies targeted at castes that may be deemed to be in need of greater assistance. The survey will benefit all castes, without exception," he said.

Yadavs (14.27%) unsurprisingly constitute the biggest caste group amongst the OBCs. They form the primary vote-

bank of ruling RJD, which alone with the support of the Muslim population comprising 17.70%, ruled the state for 15 years in a row through the MY (Muslim-Yadav) formula from 2005 and are back in power after Nitish's somersault from the BJP and his JD(U) leading the grand anti-BJP alliance. RJD's Tejashwi Yadav is Nitish's deputy.

RJD president Lalu Yadav said the survey will set the tone for 'a nationwide caste census which will be undertaken when we form the next government at the Centre'.

The Scheduled Castes comprise 19.65% (2,56,89,820) of the state's population while the total headcount of Scheduled Tribes is 1.68% (21,99,361).

The population of upper castes under the unreserved category stands at 15.5%, which has already triggered calls for revisiting the 10% EWS (Economically Weaker Section) quota carved out by the Modi government at the Centre. The break-up of the four upper castes in the state is Bhumihar 3.66% (47,81,280), Rajput 3.45% (45,10,733), Brahmin 3.66% (47,81,280) and Kayastha 0.6% (7,85,771).

The survey was approved by state cabinet on June 2 last year with a budgetary allocation of ₹500 crore. As many as 3 lakh officials were deployed for task. For its part, the Opposition BJP in Bihar termed the report an eyewash, as it did not capture the economic profile of the people.

Engineer among 3 IS suspects held in Delhi

UJWAL JALALI @ New Delhi

THE Delhi Police Special Cell arrested three suspected ISIS terrorists, including one who is on the most wanted list of the National Investigative Agency (NIA) and carrying a reward of ₹3 lakh on his head. The suspected terrorist, identified as Shah Nawaz Alam alias Abdullah alias Md Ibrahim alias Prince (31), an engineer by profession, was hiding in Delhi after fleeing from Pune, the police said on Monday. The other two were identified as Mohammad Rizwan Ashraf (28) and Md Arshad Warsi (29).

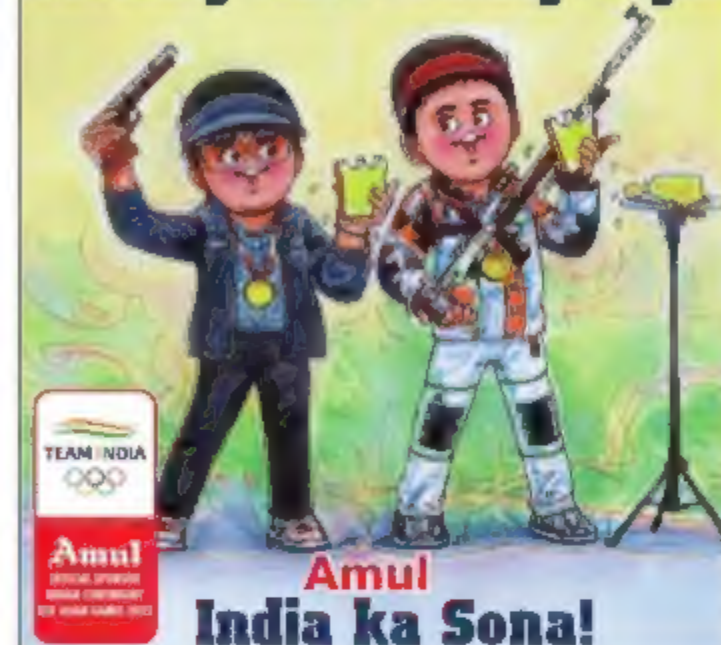
Special Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) HGS Dhaliwal said the arrested persons were taking instructions from their handlers in Pakistan and were planning to carry out terror activities in India. "They were in advance stage of preparations and had procured arms, ammunition, and explosives for this purpose and had also set up a base in Delhi," he added.

Dhaliwal said Delhi Police received credible inputs that Pakistan's spy agency ISI was using terrorists to carry out attacks in India. "One such module was identified with footprints in UP, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand & Maharashtra. Two ISIS operatives namely Imran Khan and Yunus Saaki were arrested in Pune by Maharashtra police. However, Shah Nawaz Alam managed to escape from the police custody," he added.

7-DAY POLICE REMAND

All three were produced before a special UAPA court in Delhi, which sent them to a seven-day police remand

Shooting stars shining bright



S'mogga peaceful, 60 held for stone-throwing

CM SEEKS REPORT

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday sought a report on the incident from DG and IGP Alok Mohan. The govt will take stern action against those involved in the incident, he said. P4

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Shivamogga

POLICE have arrested 60 people in connection with the stone-throwing incident at Ragigudda here on Sunday.

The city, which witnessed tension after Sunday's incident, was peaceful on Monday. Ban orders under Section 144 are in force across the city.

Twelve people were injured, and seven houses and four vehicles were damaged in the stone-throwing incident. The police have registered 24 FIRs. Personnel from Rapid Action Force and reserve police have been deployed across the city.

Superintendent of Police Mithun Kumar GK told *The New Indian Express* that the stone-throwing incident took place after rumours of stone-throwing on an Eid Milad procession spread across the city.

"The procession at Ragigudda began after 2.30 pm. After the alleged stone-throwing incident, I rushed to the spot and tried to pacify the crowd. But around 80 people arrived there and raised slogans. Soon, they started throwing stones. Immediately, we resorted to lathi-charge to disperse the crowd," the SP said. CONTINUED ON P4

The big picture

TOTAL POPULATION: 13.07 CR
Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs): 36%
Other Backward Classes (OBCs): 27.13%

10 CASTES WITH HIGHEST POPULATION

CASTE	PERCENTAGE(%)	POPULATION
Yadav	14.27	1.86 CRORE
Dushad	5.31	69.43 LAKH
Chamar	5.25	68.69 LAKH
Koiris	4.2	55.06 LAKH
Brahmin	3.65	47.81 LAKH
Rajput	3.45	45.10 LAKH
Mushar	3.08	40.35 LAKH
Kurmi	2.87	37.62 LAKH
Bania	2.3	30.26 LAKH
Kayasth	0.60	7.857 LAKH

Religion-wise
Hindu 82% (10,71,92,958)
Islam 17.7% (2,31,49,925)
Christian 0.0576% (75,238)

Govt planning to set up village-level courts: Siddu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah said on Monday that the State Government is planning to establish courts at the village-level to reduce the burden on courts at the district and State levels. He was speaking at a function organised to present Gandhi Gram Puraskar and Swachh Sarvekshan Rural state-level awards here.

Siddaramaiah said such courts will help resolve disputes at the village-level itself. This decentralised court system will help villagers as they

need not go to towns and cities to attend court cases.

He said village-level courts will be established based on the concepts of gram swaraj of Mahatma Gandhi and decentralisation of power of Rajiv Gandhi.

Stressing the need for the development of khadi and village industries, Siddaramaiah said steps will be taken to boost the sale of gramodyog products. The country will not progress until its villages are developed. The concepts of gram swaraj and decentralisation of power were aimed at developing villages, he said. CONTINUED ON P5

Women take the lead in organ donation drive

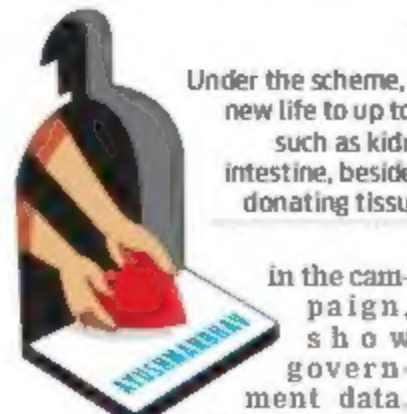
KAVITA BAJALI-DATT @ New Delhi

WOMEN have taken the lead in donating their organs under the recently launched Ayushman Bhav campaign, under which over 61,000 Indians have pledged to donate their organs and tissues after death.

Since President Droupadi Murmu launched the campaign on September 13, as many as 35,000 women have so far taken the pledge to donate their organs and tissues.

In sharp contrast, only around 26,000 men have come forward.

Maharashtra, Telangana, and Madhya Pradesh have emerged as the top three states with the highest participation



Under the scheme, a person after his/her death can give new life to up to nine others by donating vital organs such as kidneys, liver, lungs, heart, pancreas, and intestine, besides improving the life of many more by donating tissues like cornea, skin, bone, heart valve

in the campaign, show government data. People from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Uttarakhand have also responded positively to the call.

According to the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation, people in the age group of 30-45 years are

GIVING LIFE AFTER DEATH

death in stark contrast to 70-80% in Western countries, say experts. With over 2 lakh Indians needing organ transplants annually, a unified national policy can address the critical issue effectively, they point out.

"If we properly harvest even 5-10% of all brain deaths for organ donation, it could render the need for living donors obsolete," said Dr L K Jha, director, Dharamshila Narayana Super-speciality Hospital, Delhi.

Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday urged more people to come forward for the noble cause.

India faces the lowest organ donation rate worldwide, with a mere 0.1% of the population donating their organs after

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GOKAK HORROR

Five held for gangrape, sixth on the run

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Belagavi

AN incident of a woman gangraped by six members of the notorious "Benachimardi Khilari" gang and "SP Sarkar" gang at Aditya Nagar in Gokak town of Belagavi district came to light on September 18 though it occurred on September 5.

The district police have arrested five of the six accused. The arrested have been identified as Ramesh Uddappa Khilari, Durgappa Somling Vaddar, Yallappa Siddappa Gisingavagol, Krishna Prakash Pujeri and Ramsidda Gurusiddappa Tapsi, all residents of Gokak taluk.

A search is on for Basavaraj Vasant Khilari who is absconding.

Police said the victim was shopping in Gokak town along with a man on September 5 when Basavaraj Khilari, who is known to her, invited them to his house for tea.

Accordingly, the victim and the man went to his house. After some time, Basavaraj Khilari locked them in a room and telephoned the other accused to come to his house. After the five accused reached Basavaraj Khilari's house, they assaulted the victim and the man, clicked their photos and shot their videos to blackmail them.

They took Rs 2,000 from the victim's bag, her earrings and an ATM card from the man and demanded Rs2 lakh from them. Later, the accused gangraped the victim after gagging her.

CONTINUED ON P5

